

State Operations Manual

Appendix R - Resident Assessment Instrument for Long-Term Care Facilities - (Rev. 1, 05-21-04)

Introduction

Sections [1819\(f\)\(6\)](#) and [1919\(f\)\(6\)](#) of the Social Security Act (the Act) require that the Secretary specify a minimum data set (MDS) of core elements and common definitions for use by long-term care facilities in conducting comprehensive assessments of residents residing in long-term care facilities. These sections also require the Secretary to establish guidelines for the use of these data elements. These utilization guidelines consist of instructions for using the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) and include the resident assessment protocols (RAPs). Furthermore, the Secretary is required to designate one or more RAIs that are consistent with the MDS and common definitions. A State may specify the RAI designated by the Secretary for use in conducting assessments, or it may develop an alternate RAI provided it is approved by the Secretary as being consistent with the MDS of core elements, common definitions and utilization guidelines. CMS' original RAI was published in 1990 and implemented in all States by 1991. CMS subsequently undertook a collaborative process to revise the RAI, which culminated in the release of version 2.0 of the RAI.

CMS requires the use of the September 2000 update of version 2.0 of the RAI (or an approved alternate) by all States. Each State's RAI must consist of at least CMS' September, 2000 RAI. Any State-specific items are included in an optional Section S; States may also specify the standardized, optional sections T and U as part of their RAI.

CMS' RAI consists of:

- MDS Version 2.0 (with or without optional Sections S, T, U)
 - Resident Assessment Protocols (RAPs)
- Utilization Guidelines

Under the SNF PPS requirements, facilities must complete Section T for residents in a Medicare Part A covered stay each time an MDS is required for Medicare payment purposes.

The revised Long-Term Care Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual , Version 2.0, December 2002 including the August 2003 updates is located on the CMS website. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20>.